

04-144 Commissioner of Elections

The mission of the Department of Elections and Registration is to provide to the citizens of Louisiana the most efficient, honest, and reliable elections. The elections will be held using the best techniques and technology available. All action will be directed toward instilling confidence in the election process for all Louisiana voters.

The goals of the Department of Elections and Registration are:

1. Be prepared for any official election by holding in a state of readiness all equipment and personnel required to hold such elections.
2. Provide and program the best available equipment for all elections.
3. Provide the list of eligible voters to ensure that everyone qualified has the chance to exercise his/her right to vote.
4. Faithfully administer the laws governing voter registration and elections and provide support to all state and local election officers.
5. Pay all election expenses (excluding the printing of ballots and election precinct supplies).
6. Maintain the statewide voter registration system.

The Department of Elections and Registration is under the direction of the commissioner of elections, who is authorized under Article IV, Section 12, of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974 to exercise all functions of the state relating to the custody of voting machines and voter registration.

The election system in Louisiana is unique. Louisiana is the only state with an open primary system of election. In addition, Louisiana is the only state that has a separate department of elections charged with holding all elections in the state. Louisiana's Department of Elections and Registration was the first state in the nation to have a statewide, computerized voter registration system. It is the intention of the department to continue as a leader and innovator in the election field and to serve as a model for election systems throughout the nation.

The Department of Elections and Registration includes four programs: Administration Program, Voting Machines Program, Voter Registration Program, and Elections Program.

BUDGET SUMMARY

	ACTUAL 1998-1999	ACT 10 1999- 2000	EXISTING 1999- 2000	CONTINUATION 2000 - 2001	RECOMMENDED 2000 - 2001	RECOMMENDED OVER/(UNDER) EXISTING
MEANS OF FINANCING:						
STATE GENERAL FUND (Direct)	\$29,578,470	\$32,696,618	\$33,069,618	\$32,006,553	\$29,069,741	(\$3,999,877)
STATE GENERAL FUND BY:						
Interagency Transfers	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fees & Self-gen. Revenues	1,693,138	2,834,000	2,834,000	2,534,000	2,534,000	(300,000)
Statutory Dedications	0	0	0	0	0	0
Interim Emergency Board	0	0	0	0	0	0
FEDERAL FUNDS	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL MEANS OF FINANCING	\$31,271,608	\$35,530,618	\$35,903,618	\$34,540,553	\$31,603,741	(\$4,299,877)
EXPENDITURES & REQUEST:						
Administrative	\$1,184,963	\$1,252,854	\$1,252,854	\$1,367,181	\$1,273,986	\$21,132
Voting Machines	3,714,216	4,041,167	4,041,167	4,173,572	3,913,954	(127,213)
Voter Registration	6,637,366	8,208,743	8,581,743	8,741,016	8,510,237	(71,506)
Elections	19,735,063	22,027,854	22,027,854	20,258,784	17,905,564	(4,122,290)
TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND REQUEST	\$31,271,608	\$35,530,618	\$35,903,618	\$34,540,553	\$31,603,741	(\$4,299,877)
AUTHORIZED FULL-TIME EQUIVALENTS: Classified	87	86	86	86	82	(4)
Unclassified	5	6	6	6	5	(1)
TOTAL	92	92	92	92	87	(5)

This agency's recommended appropriation includes \$1,582,654 for short-term debt, including Lease Purchase agreements.

In addition to the above recommended appropriation, \$799,832 will be paid in Fiscal Year 2000-2001 for long-term debt incurred on behalf of this agency from the previous sale of bonds. Total long-term debt service payments for the state for Fiscal Year 2000-2001 are reflected in the Governor's Executive Budget Supporting Document in Non-Appropriated Requirements, Schedule 22-922.

This agency's recommended appropriation also includes the following amount by means of financing for payments on the unfunded accrued liability of the Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System in accordance with the provisions of Article X, Section 29 of the Constitution of Louisiana:

State General Fund (Direct)	\$224,268
Total	\$224,268